

little illustrated book that sets forth the acts and conversations of shades, ancient and modern, who constitute a house-boat club in Hades. All sorts of people are there, Phidias, Socrates, with Xanthippe of course, Nero, Shakespeare, Raleigh, with Queen Elizabeth, Bacon, Lucretia Borgia, Johnson and Boswell, George Washington, P. T. Barnum, to say nothing of Adam, Noah, Shem and Jonah. Some people would be very much shocked by the introduction of the latter scripture characters, but there is nothing in the treatment of their individual stories that savours of irreverence towards revelation. The conversation of Barnum with Noah and Shem in regard to the Ark's menagerie is one of the most comical parts of the book, and the picture of Shem, with accompanying letterpress, is irresistible. I don't know that we worship Shem, and therefore am prepared to acquit Mr. Bangs of any supposed attempt to bring the Bible narrative into ridicule. Very reverend divines have condescended to laugh, without a handkerchief before their mouths, at Jonah's contention before Mr. Justice Blackstone, that Baron Munchausen had no right to infringe his copyright of the whale. Nevertheless, I firmly believe that God prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah, and refuse to accept the the German tavern of the Black Whale of Ascalon as the cavernous mouth that held the disobedient prophet.

David Lyall's "Heather from the Brae" is a series of Scottish character sketches worthy to be ranked with "The Bonnie Brier Bush." There is the same blending of humor and pathos and the same happy description in Lyall's work as in that of Ian MacLaren, but they are separate and distinct creations. That kindly hearts and facile pens should be found to tell the tales of humble Christian lives, and that thousands of readers should be raised up to appreciate them and be made better for them is a noteworthy fact. It may not be an indication of any radical change in Scottish thinking and emotion, as compared with the days when Rutherford, Baxter, Boston, and Doddridge were the authors of the home literature, vying with Burns and Scott,